

REMARKS:

This is a full and complete response to the Office Action of October 9, 2007.

REGARDING THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 have been amended and new claims 30 and 31 have been added. Support can be found in generally throughout the application and figures, and particularly in figures 17-26. Support for new claim 31 can be found in paragraphs [0132] to [0133] of the application and figure 17. No new matter has been added.

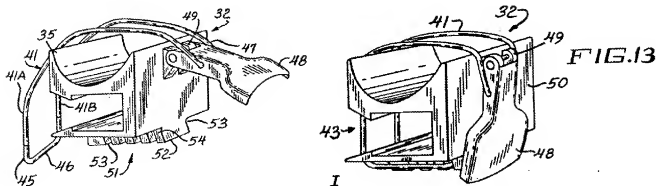
IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Johansson:

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 20, and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by **Johansson**, US 5,052,605. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicants have clarified the independent claims to recite “comprising at least two spaced apart and aligned apertures...in the non-transporting configuration.” Applicants respectfully assert that the cited reference **Johansson** does not disclose or suggest at least this recitation and therefore does not anticipate the present claims.

Johansson is directed to an attachment arrangement for a cycle or some other load. *Johansson*, Col. 1, lines 4-12. The device of **Johansson** as shown in figures 12 and 13 of the reference and is provided as follows for convenience



As can be seen above, attachment element 32 has a recess 35 for accommodating a cycle wheel. *Johannson, Col. 3, line 66 to Col. 4, line 8.* Attachment element 32 also has a clamping device 41 which would bridge the opening 43 as well as any wheel on the device. *Johannson, Col. 3, line 66 to Col. 4, line 8.* The attachment can be applied to a supporting bar by means of the opening 43. *Johannson, Col. 4, lines 40-46.*

As can be seen however, the above device has only one aperture, and so does not disclose the present claims. For illustrative purposes, some non-limiting embodiments of the present claims can be seen in figures 17 and 23 as follows:

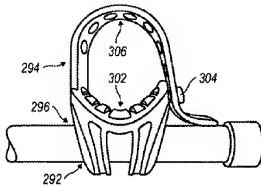


FIG. 17

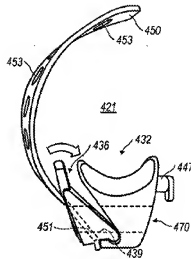


FIG. 23

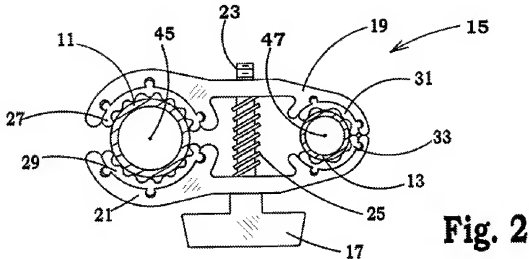
As shown above, the cradle has a through-passage comprising at least two spaced apart and aligned apertures within which said elongate arm can be received.

As **Johannson** does not disclose or suggest having at least two spaced apart and aligned apertures the reference does not anticipate the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the above mentioned rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Colley:

Claims 1-16, 18, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by **Colley**, US 5,769,556. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner alleges that **Colley** discloses a load carrier arrangement for transporting a bicycle with a frame assembly adapted to be mounted to a carrying vehicle and having an elongate arm 11 configured to receive a bicycle cradle. For the sake of convenience, Applicants provide Figure 2 of **Colley** as follows:



With respect to the above figure, the Examiner further alleges that **Colley** discloses a through-passage near 21 in which an elongate arm is received. Additionally, in discussing claims 6-8, the Examiner indicated that **Colley** discloses apertures near 27 and 29 in Figure 2.

Similar to **Johannson**, Applicants respectfully assert that **Colley** does not disclose the recitation in the present claims of “at least two spaced apart and aligned apertures...in the non-transporting configuration.” As can be seen in the above figure, even if the arcuate segments 27 and 29 were to be considered apertures, Applicants respectfully note that such segments are not spaced apart and aligned. Therefore, **Colley** does not disclose or suggest the present claims as amended.

Applicants respectfully note that **Colley** also does not disclose or suggest “each of the apertures continuously encircles said elongate arm” as recited in new claim 30. Even if the arcuate segments 27 and 29 in **Colley** were considered apertures, they do not continuously encircle any elongate arm. The embodiments as shown in Figure 17 and 27 for example in the

present application show apertures which continuously encircle the elongate arm. For this reason also **Colley** does not disclose or suggest claim 10.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 17/16/6, 17/16/3, 17/16/1, 19/18/6, 19/18/3, and 19/18/1 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Colley** in view of Newbold et al., US 4,830,250 (“**Newbold**”). Claims 22/20/6, 22/20/3, and 22/20/1 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Johansson** in view of **Colley**. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully re-assert the remarks made above with respect to **Colley**. **Colley** does not disclose or suggest “at least two spaced apart and aligned apertures...in the non-transporting configuration” as recited in the present claims. Neither **Newbold** nor **Johansson** remedy such defect in disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the above mentioned rejection be withdrawn.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7298.125.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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